

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01
DOE-15 SOE-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 PA-01
ICA-11 NSC-05 /079 W
-----101546 210732Z /15
R 191325Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4227
INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SANTO DOMINGO 2024

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, DR
SUBJECT: GODR POSTPONES PURCHASE OF GENERAL ELECTRIC POWER PLANT

1. IN A SURPRISE MOVE, OFFICIALS OF THE GENERAL ELECTRIC CO. WERE TOLD FRIDAY, APRIL 14 THAT THE \$40 MILLION CONTRACT NEGOTIATED WITH THE STATE-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY, CORPORACION DOMINICANA DE ELECTRICIDAD (CDE) FOR PURCHASE OF A THERMO-ELECTRIC POWER PLANT WAS NOT YET READY FOR SIGNING. THE TWO-PART SIGNING CEREMONY, COVERING THE GE SALE AS WELL AS THE SALE OF A SIMILAR PLANT BY THE SPANISH FIRM, "MACHINISTA," HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR 10 A.M. APRIL 14; G.E. RECEIVED THE NEWS AT 9:30 A.M. THE SPANISH CONTRACT WAS SIGNED AS PLANNED.

2. THE RATHER LAME EXPLANATION OFFERED BY THE GODR WAS THAT THE PRESIDENT'S LEGAL ADVISOR NEEDED MORE TIME TO REVIEW THE G.E. CONTRACT BECAUSE OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL PROBLEMS.

3. COMMENT: BASED ON COMMENTS BY VARIOUS GODR OFFICIALS, THE EMBASSY IS CONVINCED THAT PRESIDENT BALAGUER MADE THE DECISION TO DEFER THE SIGNING OF THE CONTRACT WITH G.E. THE KEY QUESTION REMAINS, WHY? AT THIS POINT, OUR SPECULATION ENVISAGES ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES: (A) PRESIDENT
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BALAGUER REALIZED AT THE LAST MINUTE THAT THERE WAS MORE POLITICAL MILEAGE IN TWO SEPARATE SIGNING CEREMONIES BEFORE ELECTION DAY; (B) HE WANTED TO GIVE SPAIN THE LIMELIGHT AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF THE 1977 VISIT OF THE KING OF SPAIN AND THE RECENTLY-NEGOTIATED TOBACCO AGREEMENT; (C) HE DECIDED TO HAVE THE CONTRACT SIGNED AFTER THE ARRIVAL OF THE NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO SET THE TONE OF WHAT HE HOPES WILL BE A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP;

(D) HAVING LEARNED OF THE APRIL 13 U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF INVESTIGATION OF AMBASSADOR HURWITCH, HE DID NOT WANT THE DOMINICAN PRESS TO RUN THE SAME STORY SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE G.E. CONTRACT SIGNING.
AXELROD

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SANTO02024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780170-0828
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780439/aaaabhdi.tel
Line Count: 67
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 955001ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2915216
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GODR POSTPONES PURCHASE OF GENERAL ELECTRIC POWER PLANT
TAGS: ETRD, DR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/955001ab-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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